

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A fluid injector comprising a housing, a valve body and an actuator unit inserted into the housing, wherein the valve body comprises a cartridge with a recess that takes in a needle, a receptance, which is formed in the needle and fixes a single locking element in axial direction relative to the needle, and a spring rest body, which has a recess, through which the needle protrudes and which takes in the locking element and fixes it in the radial direction relative to the needle, and a return spring which rests on the spring rest body which is pretensioned in a way that it presses the spring rest body against the locking element, wherein the single locking element is formed as a single element including a slot for receiving the receptance of the needle laterally into the slot such that the locking element surrounds the needle except at the location of the slot.

2. (Previously Presented) A fluid injector in accordance with claim 1, wherein the locking element is conically-shaped on the surface facing the spring rest body and the recess of the spring rest body is correspondingly conically-shaped.

3. (Previously Presented) A fluid injector according to claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a double-tubed wall.

4. (Previously Presented) A fluid injector according to claim 3, further comprising a fuel connector, wherein fuel is lead through the double-tubed wall towards the injection nozzle.

5. **(Currently Amended)** A fluid injector according to claim 1, comprising a fuel connector, wherein the housing defines a passage that leads wherein fuel is lead from the fuel connector around the actuator unit and towards the injection nozzle.

6. (Previously Presented) A fluid injector according to claim 1, wherein the fluid injector is turned into an open mode when actuated.

7. **Cancelled.**

8. **(Currently Amended)** A method for assembling a fluid injector comprising the steps of:

- inserting a needle into a recess of a cartridge of a valve body;
- thereafter, bringing a return spring into contact with a second spring rest, which is formed in the cartridge;
- thereafter, moving a spring rest body onto the needle until it is in a position which is closer towards the second spring rest than a receptance of the needle;
- inserting a single locking element into the receptance of the needle, wherein the single locking element is formed as a single element including a slot for receiving the receptance of the needle laterally into the slot such that the locking element surrounds the needle except at the location of the slot;
- allowing the spring rest body to move back till it contacts the locking element in the area of its recess and in that way takes in the locking element in the recess of the spring rest body.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim [[3]] 8, further comprising the step of inserting the valve body into a housing of the fluid injector.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim [[4]] 8, further comprising the step of adjusting a pretension of the return spring.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim [[3]] 8, wherein the step of inserting the locking element into the receptance of the needle is performed from a radial direction relative to the needle.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A fluid injector comprising a housing, a valve body and an actuator unit inserted into the housing, wherein the valve body comprises a cartridge with a recess that takes in a needle, a receptance, which is formed in the needle and fixes a **single** locking element in axial direction relative to the needle, and a spring rest body, which has a recess, through which the needle protrudes and which takes in the locking element and fixes it in the radial direction relative to the needle, and a return spring which rests on the spring rest body which is pretensioned in a way that it presses the spring rest body against the locking element, wherein the locking element is conically-shaped on the surface facing the spring rest body and the recess of the spring rest body is correspondingly conically-shaped, **and wherein the single locking element is formed as a single element including a slot for receiving the receptance of the needle laterally into the slot such that the locking element surrounds the needle except at the location of the slot.**

13. (Previously Presented) A fluid injector according to claim 12, wherein the housing comprises a double-tubed wall.

14. (Previously Presented) A fluid injector according to claim 13, further comprising a fuel connector, wherein fuel is lead through the double-tubed wall towards the injection nozzle.

15. **(Currently Amended)** A fluid injector according to claim 12, comprising a fuel connector, **wherein the housing defines a passage that leads wherein fuel is lead from the fuel connector** around the actuator unit **and towards** the injection nozzle.

16. (Previously Presented) A fluid injector according to claim 12, wherein the fluid injector is turned into an open mode when actuated.

17. **Cancelled.**